

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 21, 2000. Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-14 have been added. Applicant has amended claims 1, and 6-10. Consequently, claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application.

Amended and New Claims

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that the accessory unit is used “with a desktop personal computer assembly including a PC keyboard, the PC keyboard being a stand alone component.” Support for this amendment is found in the Specification at page 2, lines 3-9, which describes generally a desktop personal computer environment. In addition, Figures 3-5 clearly illustrate a stand alone keyboard component. Applicants have amended independent claims 6, 9 and 10 to recite this limitation, that is, the keyboard is a stand alone component.

Independent claims 9 and 10 have been amended further to recite that the keyboard has “a backside surface facing away from a user, the keyboard configured to receive the connecting assembly and clip of the PC accessory unit at the backside of the keyboard, such that the body structure is attached externally with the backside of the keyboard.” Support for this amendment is found in the original claim language, as well as in the Specification at page 5, lines 13-15 and Figures 3-5. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 8 to correct informalities.

Applicants have added claims 11-14. Claim 11 recites that the keyboard has “a plurality of openings” for receiving the clip, and claim 12 recites that at least one of the openings is located at the backside of the keyboard. Support for these new claims is found in the Specification at page 2, lines 22-24 and page 5, lines 3-7. Claims 13 and 14 recite that the

connecting assembly includes a Velcro strip for attachment to the keyboard. Support for claims 13 and 14 is found on page 4, line 25-26 to page 5, line 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knights (U.S. Patent No. 5,752,857). In so doing, the Examiner referred primarily to Figure 7 of Knights, and stated:

Regarding claim 1, Knights disclosed, (Fig. 7), a PC accessory unit for attachment to a PC keyboard (10), comprising: a body structure (180) incorporating electronic circuitry (30) for operation in combination with a PC; and the body structure (180) having a connecting assembly (84A, 92) for attachment externally to a PC keyboard (10).

The Examiner further stated:

Regarding claims [sic] 9, Knights disclosed, (Fig. 7), a PC accessory unit in combination with a PC keyboard, comprising: a PC accessory unit having a body structure (180) incorporating electronic circuitry (30) for operation in combination with a PC; the PC accessory body structure having a connecting assembly (84A, 92), including a clip (two prongs positioned between members 84A), for attachment externally to a PC keyboard; and a keyboard (10) for receiving the connecting assembly and clip of the PC accessory unit to dress the PC accessory unit to the backside (195) of the keyboard (column 6, lines 5+), to form the units in combination and attached to each other.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. The present invention is directed to an accessory unit to be used with a desktop personal computer (PC) system, where the keyboard is a stand alone component. The present invention is disclosed in independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 10, which recite in their entirety:

1. A PC accessory unit for use with a desktop personal computer assembly including a PC keyboard, the PC keyboard being a stand alone component, the PC accessory unit comprising:
 - a body structure incorporating electronic circuitry for operation with a PC; and
 - a connecting assembly coupled to the body structure for attaching the body structure externally to the PC keyboard.

6. A PC accessory unit for use with a stand alone PC keyboard, comprising:
a body structure incorporating electronic circuitry for operation with a PC;
a connecting assembly coupled to the body structure;
wherein the connecting assembly is coupled externally to the PC keyboard.

9. A PC accessory unit, comprising:
a body structure incorporating electronic circuitry for operation with a PC;
a connecting assembly, including a clip, coupled to the body structure; and
a keyboard having a backside surface facing away from a user, the keyboard configured to receive the connecting assembly and clip at the backside of the keyboard, such that the body structure is attached externally with the backside of the keyboard, the keyboard being a stand alone component.

10. A PC accessory unit, comprising:
a body structure for holding a device for use with a PC;
a connecting assembly, including a clip, coupled to the body structure; and
a keyboard having a backside surface facing away from a user, the keyboard configured to receive the connecting assembly and clip at the backside of the keyboard, such that the body structure is attached externally with the backside of the keyboard, the keyboard being a stand alone component.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1 is designed to be used in a standard desktop environment, where the keyboard is a stand alone component. The body structure attaches to the keyboard via the connecting assembly so that the body structure is in close proximity to the PC user and protected from potential damage. (Specification, page 2, lines 11-15). The preferred embodiment in accordance with independent claims 6, 9 and 10, includes the body structure in combination with the keyboard, which is "a stand alone component." Claims 9 and 10 recite further that the backside of the keyboard is configured to receive the connecting assembly and clip, which is coupled to the body structure.

In contrast, Knights is directed to a Smartcard computer adapter, which allows a user to transfer data between a Smartcard and a computer via the computer's IC card slot. The device includes an adapter that receives a Smartcard at one end, and at the other end, connects with a standard IC card having a rear connector. Once the IC card is inserted into the computer's IC card slot, information can be transmitted between the Smartcard and the computer. In Figure 7

(attached), Knights illustrates the adapter (180) in relation to the Smartcard (30), the computer (10) having a IC card slot (12), and the IC card (14A) inserted therein. As is shown, the adapter (180) is mated to the IC card (14A) by mating the adapter plug (84A) with the IC card receptacle (82A), so the socket contacts (92) engage the pin contacts (shown in Figure 4). (Col. 4, lines 50-52).

From the text and Figure 7, it is clear that Knights fails to teach or suggest a body structure attached to a keyboard via a connecting assembly coupled to the body structure, as recited in claims 1, 6, 9 and 10. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner likened the “body structure” to Knights’ adapter (180), the “connecting assembly” to Knights’ socket contacts (92) and adapter plug (84A), and the stand alone “keyboard” to Knights’ computer device (10). Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s characterizations. Nevertheless, even if those characterizations are accepted, Knights does not anticipate the present invention. In the present invention, the body structure is attached externally to the keyboard. Nothing in Knights suggests or teaches “attaching the body structure externally to the PC keyboard.”

Furthermore, Knights’ computer device (10) is not analogous to a keyboard which is a “stand alone component.” Knights’ computer device (10) has an IC card slot and presumably the requisite hardware and software to communicate with the IC card. This computer device (10) is an intelligent component, such as a notebook as illustrated in Figure 1 of Knights. The notebook computer incorporates a keyboard, which *is not* a stand alone component. The stand alone keyboard in accordance with the present invention, on the other hand, is a standard data input device used in a desktop environment. Unlike the computer device (10) of Knights, the stand alone keyboard does not have the capability to communicate with the body structure. The body structure is physically attached to the keyboard. Accordingly, Knights fails to teach or suggest “attaching the body structure externally to the PC keyboard,” “the keyboard being a stand alone

component,” as recited in the claims.

Finally, Knights makes no mention or suggestion that “the body structure is attached externally with the backside of the keyboard,” as recited in claims 9 and 10. Knights discloses that the IC card slot “is commonly placed at the right side of the computer, near its posterior end 196.” (Col. 5, lines 63-65). Nothing in Knights teaches or suggests having the adapter attached “at the backside of the keyboard,” wherein the backside is the “surface facing away from a user.” The portion of Knights cited by the Examiner purportedly disclosing this limitation (column 6, lines 5+) discusses various embodiments of the adapter. It does not state or suggest having the adapter attached “at the backside of the keyboard.”

For the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that Knights neither teaches nor suggests the present invention, as recited in claims 1, 6, 9 and 10. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 are allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2-5, 7, and 8 depend upon claims 1, 6, 9 and 10, and the arguments above apply with equal force to those claims. Thus, claims 2-5, 7 and 8 are also allowable.

New claims 11-14 depend upon base claims 1 and 6, and are similarly allowable for the foregoing reasons. Claims 11 and 12, however, are separately allowable over Knights because Knights fails to teach or suggest a keyboard having “a plurality of openings for receiving the clip,” “wherein at least one opening . . . is located at a backside of the keyboard.” In Knights, the computer device (10) has a single IC card slot (12) for each IC card (14A). Moreover, as seen in Figure 7, the IC card (14A) has one opening to receive the adapter’s prongs. None of those openings are “located at a backside of the keyboard.” Accordingly, because Knights fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited in claims 11 and 12, those claims are independently allowable over Knights.

Moreover, claims 13 and 14 are also separately allowable over Knights because Knights

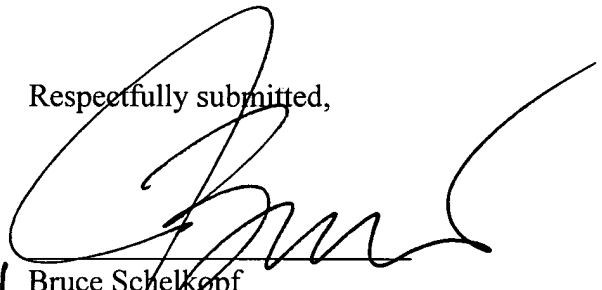
fails to teach or suggest a connecting assembly “including a Velcro strip for attachment to the keyboard.” In Knights, the “connecting assembly” are the socket contacts (92) and adapter plug (84A). Nothing in Knights mentions or suggests a connecting assembly using Velcro.

Accordingly, because Knights fails to teach or suggest the limitations recited in claims 13 and 14, those claims are independently allowable over Knights.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims in the application are patentable over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested.

Applicant’s attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant’s attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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